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New antiterroism program gets you involved

by **Fran Crumb, Information Directorate**

ROME, N.Y. — Only you know who or what belongs, or doesn't belong in your building, neighborhood or place of employment. Recognition of this fact is behind one of the latest Air Force antiterrorism initiatives, a program known as 'Eagle Eyes.' The program has characteristics of a typical neighborhood-watch program, and Air Force officials consider it to be a key piece in the service's antiterrorism strategy. It relies on accumulated experiences of British and Israeli authorities, which have significant experience in dealing with urban terrorism, according to Special Agents Lynn Stedge and Paul Swiencicki of Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) Detachment 102D at the AFRL Rome Research Site.

"They make it their business to pay attention to small things that, in combination, can indicate terrorist targeting," Stedge said. "'Eagle Eyes' is our model for doing just that. The simple act of recognizing suspicious behavior and reporting activity to law enforcement authorities could thwart terrorist acts and save lives."

At the Rome Research Site, anyone with something to report should immediately call the RRS Security Forces Desk Sergeant at 330-2961 or 330-2200, or the Rome Police Department. From there, security forces and/or local law enforcement will respond as appropriate to the immediate situation and pass the report to the OSI. From there, OSI will begin appropriate follow-up action, which may include an agent responding to talk with the person who called in the report. This is an effort to gain additional information on what was seen or heard. "At the same time, the information will be quickly upchannelled to local, state and federal agencies," Stedge said. "OSI's analytical centers will compare with other Air Force, Army, Navy and other federal agency reports. It all begins at the local level where terrorists conduct operational planning activities." "Every terrorist operation is preceded by precursor events, which people need to recognize and report. Terrorist acts don't just happen - they are carefully planned and rehearsed many, many times in advance," said Swiencicki said. "Studies have shown, most (upwards of 88 percent) of terrorist actions that reach the attack stage, are successful."

"During an attack, you may have seconds to react and respond to the life or death situation. The odds are stacked against you. But, pre-attack activities can take weeks, months and even years to accomplish. Reports from the populous are the major sources of indicators, by which law enforcement and/or the intelligence community can identify and prevent potential attacks."

The key is public awareness of what to look for both on and off military installations and the 'Eagle Eyes' program is something in which the whole community needs to be involved. "Anyone from active-duty military members, to family members, to government civilians, contractors, off-base business proprietors, and the local community could see something out of the ordinary, report it, and make the difference between a terrorist act occurring or not occurring," Stedge said. "Our best chance to detect and prevent a terrorist act in our community is to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity. The more eyes and ears we can enlist to be on the lookout for suspicious activity, the more difficult we can make it for terrorists to act."

"No one should be hesitant about reporting incidents that could turn out to be innocent behavior," he said. "That's bound to happen from time to time, but you don't know if it's innocent until you report it and have it checked out. When lives are at stake, it's better to be safe than sorry. If in doubt, report it. Your call could make the difference. The bottom line is if something bothers you or doesn't seem right, tell someone."

Activity that should be reported can be classified into seven broad categories:

**** Surveillance:** Someone recording or monitoring activities, including the use of cameras (both still and video), note-taking, drawing diagrams, writing on maps, or using binoculars or any other vision-enhancing device.

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**** Elicitation:** Anyone or any organization attempting to gain information by mail, fax, telephone or in person about an organization's operations or people.

**** Tests of Security:** Any attempts to measure reaction times to security breaches or to penetrate physical security barriers or procedures.

**** Acquiring Supplies:** Purchasing or stealing explosives, weapons, ammunition, uniforms, decals, flight manuals, passes or badges (or the equipment to manufacture them), or any other controlled items.

**** Suspicious Persons Out of Place:** People who don't seem to belong in the workplace, neighborhood, business establishment or any other location. This also includes suspicious border crossings, stowaways aboard ship, or people jumping ship in port.

**** Dry Run:** Putting people into position and moving them about without actually committing a terrorists act such as a kidnapping or bombing. An element of this activity could also include mapping out routes and determining the timing of traffic lights and flows.

**** Deploying Assets:** People and supplies getting into position to commit the act. This is usually the last opportunity to alert authorities before the terrorism occurs.

"Don't report activity solely based on the appearance of the person conducting that activity," Swiencicki said. "Timothy McVeigh was the boy-next-door, until the Oklahoma City bomb went off. You can't identify a terrorist based on their appearance, so base your reports on the activities as described above."

"Preventing terrorism against our people and resources demands our best efforts," said General John P. Jumper, Air Force chief of staff. "Eagle Eyes will bolster Air Force mission capability by protecting lives and resources from terrorist acts."

"Eagle Eyes" is an Air Force-wide effort that requires the support of the military, government employees and contractors, and members of the local community. Additional information regarding the program can be obtained by contacting Special Agents Lynn Stedje or Paul Swiencicki at 330-3935 or 330-4612. @